(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. AU ASHRAF RATMI): (a) to (c) In view of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 2003 that five new NTs will be set up by upgrading promising academic institutions, the Government has constituted an Expert Committee to identify such academic institutions. A number of proposals from various State Governments have been received by the Government and are under consideration of the Expert Committee. The proposal relating to setting up of an I IT in Andhra Pradesh at Basar is also under consideration of the Expert Committee. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Development of education in Madhya Pradesh

†1240. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government for development of education in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the Grants provided during the last financial year for promotion of sports, nutrition etc. in the colleges of the States; and

(c) the amount to be spent by the Centre in the Education "Head" of the State for the welfare of the educationally backward minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Environment and life science education

1241. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether It is proposed to introduce environment and life science education in schools and colleges;

(b) If so, the details of the project and the academic year from which it would be started; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it would be made mandatory for all the schools and colleges to include these courses in their system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Environmental Education is being introduced as a compulsory subject in schools for the Class I to XII. University Grants Commission (UGC) has also prepared a Six Month Compulsory Core Module Course on Environmental Studies for Undergraduate Courses, for all Universities/Colleges of India. Life Science (Biology) is already a part of the existing school curricula upto secondary stage.

(b) On 13.7.2004, the Supreme Court directed that the syllabus of Environmental Education prepared by NCERT would be adopted by every State in their schools. Further, the NCERT was appointed as a nodal agency to supervise the implementation of the Supreme Courts order. Syllabus of Environmental Education prepared by NCERT has already been circulated to all StatesAJTs and they are making preparation for its implementation from the next academic session *viz.* 2005-06. UGC has circulated a 'Syllabus for Environmental Studies' to all the universities/colleges for its compulsory implementation from the academic year 2003-04.

(c) Yes Sir, as per Supreme Court's order dated 13.7.2004, it would be mandatory for every State to adopt the syllabus of Environmental Education prepared by NCERT for Class I to XII in their respective schools and by the universities/colleges to adopt the Six Month Compulsory Core Module Course on Environmental Studies for Undergraduate Courses prepared by University Grants Commission (UGC) in all the streams at undergraduate level.

Funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†1242. SHRI ABU ASIMAZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the State Governments have been allotted funds for "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" during last few years;

(b) if so, amounts allotted during 2002-03 and 2003-04 to U.R, Bihar and Maharashtra; and

(c) the percentage of the funds utilised each year by these States?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.